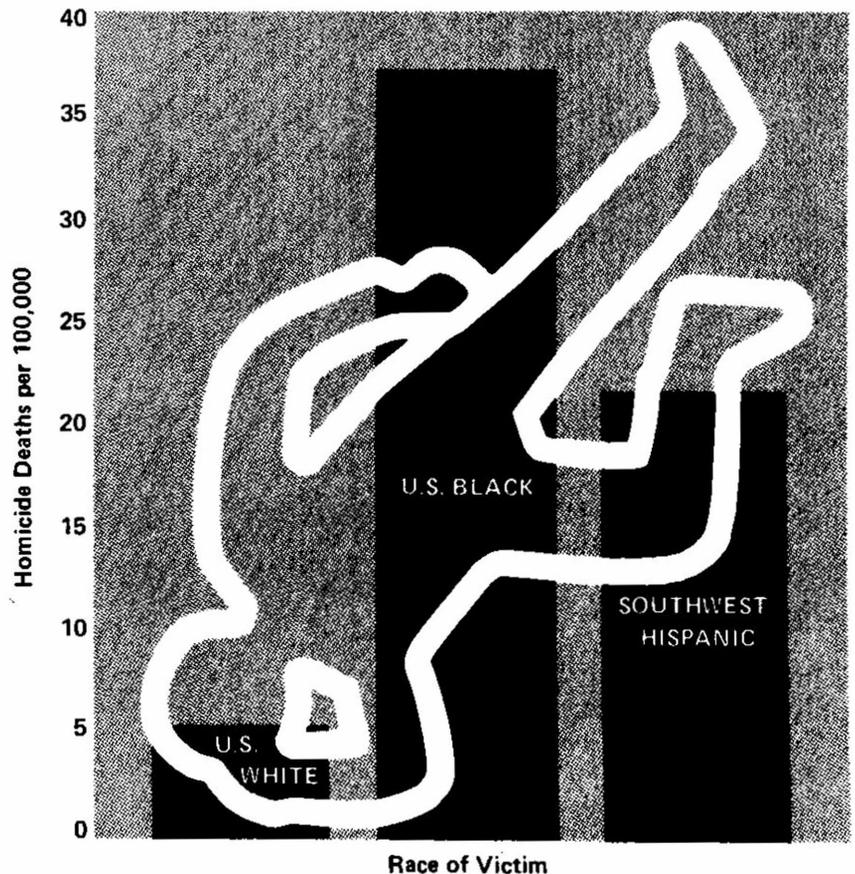


High-Risk Racial and Ethnic Groups—
Blacks and Hispanics, 1970 to 1983

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL
HOMICIDE
SURVEILLANCE



Division of Injury Epidemiology
and Control
Center for Environmental Health

Centers for Disease Control
homicide surveillance

PREFACE

In September 1983, the first Homicide Surveillance Report was published detailing national homicide mortality statistics in terms of the impact of homicide as a public health problem. In that report, and in previous sociologic and criminologic research, it was noted that blacks and other minorities were at much higher risk of death from homicide than whites. This report is an extension of that first surveillance report, analyzing in detail the rates and patterns of homicide among blacks and other minorities and comparing these rates and patterns with those of the majority white population. It should be noted at the outset that racial status *per se* may have little to do with an individual's risk of homicide. Rather, it appears from past research that racial status may simply be associated with other factors—such as socioeconomic status—that do influence the risk of homicide. Unfortunately, information on socioeconomic status is not available from the national mortality data bases on which this report is based. A high priority for future research will be more precise identification of those factors associated with racial status that increase the risk of homicide.

Homicide is frequently thought of as a criminal justice problem, and the term "homicide" in that context connotes the commission of a criminal act. In this report, however, homicide is considered as a cause of death, and thus the term "homicide" here refers to victimization and not perpetration. Pertinent data on assailants as they related to homicide victims is presented, but for the most part the information in this report concerns homicide victims. Ultimately, of course, a comprehensive public health approach to homicide prevention must consider risk factors for both homicide perpetration and homicide victimization.

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Center for Environmental Health¹ Vernon N. Houk, M.D., Director

Division of Injury Epidemiology and Control Stuart T. Brown, M.D., Director
Mark L. Rosenberg, M.D., M.P.P., Assistant Director for Science
Richard J. Waxweiler, Ph.D., Chief, Epidemiology Branch

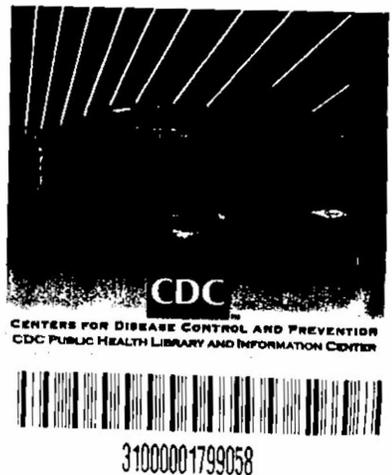
Intentional Injury Section James A. Mercy, Ph.D., Chief
Patrick W. O'Carroll, M.D., M.P.H., Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer
Jack C. Smith, M.S., Senior Statistical Consultant
Judith M. Conn, M.S., Statistician
Diane R. Roberts, Statistical Assistant

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Table of Contents

I. Summary	
II. Introduction	
III. Surveillance Methods	
A. NCHS Mortality Data	
B. FBI-SHR Data	
C. Homicide Data from Five Southwestern States	
D. Population Data	
IV. Findings	
A. Homicide in the United States	
1. Homicide as a cause of death	
2. The risk of homicide by race	
3. The risk of homicide by race, age, and sex	
4. State and regional patterns of homicide	
5. Temporal patterns	
6. Homicide weapons	
7. Relationship of victim to assailant	
8. Homicide by race of assailant	
9. Homicide circumstances	
B. Homicide in the Southwest	
1. The risk of homicide by race/ethnicity, age, and sex	
2. Temporal patterns	
3. Homicide weapons	
V. Discussion	
A. Homicide Mortality: Blacks	
B. Homicide Mortality: Hispanics	
C. Homicide Mortality: Nonblack Minority Races	
D. Common Patterns of Homicide	
VI. References	
VII. Tables	
VIII. Figures	
IX. Sources of Table and Figure Data	



HOMICIDE SURVEILLANCE: HIGH-RISK RACIAL AND ETHNIC GROUPS — BLACKS AND HISPANICS, 1970 to 1983

I. SUMMARY

Although great strides have been made in improving the health of the American people, a marked disparity remains in the burden of death and illness faced by blacks and other minorities relative to the majority white population. High rates of homicide mortality among blacks and other minorities account for much of this disparity. Homicide is the leading cause of death among blacks 15-34 years of age. For blacks overall, homicide is the third leading cause of years of potential life lost (YPLL); for whites and persons of other races, it is the sixth leading cause of YPLL.

The crude black homicide mortality rate for the period 1970 to 1983 was 37.4 per 100,000, which is 6.7 times the rate for whites (5.6) and 4.4 times the rate for persons of other races (8.5). Black homicide rates decreased by 21.7% from 1970 to 1983, whereas white homicide rates increased by 30.2%; despite these trends, black homicide rates were still 5.3 times greater than white rates in 1983. Black males had the highest rates (approaching 100 per 100,000 for those 25-34 years of age) followed by black females, white males, males and females of other minority races, and white females. For each race category, homicide rates were highest in the West. A slightly higher proportion of black than white victims were killed by persons known to them, by firearms, and under circumstances unrelated to another felony.

In the Southwest, Hispanics were at intermediate homicide risk, with lower rates than those of blacks but almost three times the rate of non-Hispanic whites (Anglos) in the region. Almost all the increased risk for Hispanics was among Hispanic males. In the Southwest, firearms and explosives were the weapons used in 70.3% of black homicides, 65.1% of Hispanic homicides, and 58.7% of Anglo homicides. For Hispanic males, one-fourth of all homicides were committed with cutting and piercing instruments, compared with 18.1% and 18.5% for Anglo and black males, respectively.

Certain patterns of homicide mortality in the United States were common to all race and ethnic groups. Specifically, homicide rates were highest among males and among young adults; at least half of all victims were killed with firearms, most of which were handguns; most homicides occurred during the course of an argument or other nonfelony circumstance; and most victims knew their assailants. While identifying high-risk racial and ethnic groups helps to target resources and programs for homicide research and prevention, these common patterns suggest that preventive interventions may be applicable to the entire population.

II. INTRODUCTION

Despite great improvements in the health status of all Americans, there remains a marked disparity in the burden of death and illness experienced by blacks and other minorities relative to the majority white population (1). A large proportion of this health status "gap" is attributable to the remarkably high rates of homicide mortality among certain minority populations, particularly blacks and Hispanics. During the decade of the 1970's, blacks and other racial minorities in the United States were six to nine times more likely than whites to die from homicide (2). In 1980, homicide was the leading cause of death among blacks 15-34 years of age, and the fifth leading cause of death among blacks overall (3). Hispanics as an ethnic group are also at increased risk of death from homicide compared with non-Hispanic whites living in the same area (4,5).

The public health community is becoming increasingly aware of the magnitude of premature mortality from homicide and the prominence of homicide as a leading cause of death, particularly among minorities. As with any other cause of death, we must first develop an understanding of factors that cause or facilitate death from homicide if we are ultimately to intervene to prevent these deaths. The first step in this process is identifying groups at high risk of death from homicide and defining patterns of homicide within these groups. Toward that end, this report describes: (1) national homicide patterns for blacks compared with patterns for whites and other, nonblack racial minorities; and (2) regional homicide patterns for Hispanics (primarily Mexican American) in the Southwest compared with patterns for Anglos and blacks in the same region.

III. SURVEILLANCE METHODS

Homicide in this report is defined as death due to injuries purposefully inflicted by another person, not including deaths caused by law enforcement officers or legal execution. The information on homicide presented in this report is drawn from three data sources: detailed mortality tapes prepared by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Supplementary Homicide Reports (FBI-SHR), and a regional data set based on death certificate information from five southwestern States.

A. NCHS Mortality Data

The Division of Vital Statistics of the NCHS compiles mortality statistics from death certificate information provided by the 50 States and the District of Columbia. These statistics include age, sex, race, and geographic data coded according to the International Classification of Disease (ICD). This report uses the ICD classification "Homicide and Injury Purposely Inflicted by Other Persons" (codes E960-E969) to identify homicide deaths occurring during the period 1970 to 1983. These codes do not include deaths from injuries resulting from interventions by law enforcement officers (ICDA-8 and ICD-9 codes E970-E977) or deaths caused by legal execution (ICDA-8 and ICD-9 code E978). The Eighth Revision (ICDA-8) (6) was used for homicides that occurred from 1970 to 1978, and the Ninth Revision (ICD-9) (7) for homicides that occurred from 1979 to 1983. The titles for the cause-of-death categories for homicide are identical under the Eighth and Ninth revisions with one exception (7), and the comparability ratio between the two revisions is near unity (8).

National mortality statistics are classified in this report into three race categories: white, black, and other. The white category includes persons reported as white, Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban and all other Caucasians. The "other" category includes Native Americans, Asians and Pacific Islanders.

B. FBI-SHR Data

The Supplemental Homicide Report (SHR) computer files compiled by the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reporting Program are based on reports voluntarily submitted by more than 15,000 city, county, and state law enforcement agencies in the United States. In 1984, 96% of the U.S. population fell within the jurisdiction of the participating agencies (9). In common with the NCHS, the FBI collects data on the age, race, and sex of homicide victims and the weapons used. Unlike the NCHS, the FBI also collects information about the circumstances of the homicides, the relationships between victims and assailants, and demographic data on the assailants.

This report includes homicides from the SHR computer files for each year from 1976 to 1983. Homicide deaths classified by the FBI as murder, nonnegligent manslaughter (the willful killing of one human being by another), or citizen-justifiable homicide (e.g., homicide committed in self-defense) were included (10). Legal executions and homicides committed by law enforcement officers were not included.

The Supplementary Homicide Report records the race of the homicide victims as reported by the investigating law enforcement official. As with NCHS statistics, the white racial category includes those homicide victims reported as white, Mexican, Puerto Rican, and all other caucasians. The "other" category includes Native Americans, Asians, and Pacific Islanders.

Although information about homicide weapons is included in both NCHS and SHR data sets, the weapons categories are not identical. This report uses the more detailed SHR data on weapon use for all national analyses. NCHS weapons categories were used for the analysis of homicide in the Southwest (see below).

⁶Code E967 was changed from "Assault by pushing from high place" in the Eighth Revision to "Child battering and other maltreatment" in the Ninth. The former homicide category was recoded as E968.

C. Homicide Data from Five Southwestern States

Whereas race is a biologic distinction, ethnicity is primarily a cultural distinction, implying common traits and customs. For the period studied, neither NCHS nor SHR data permit a reliable national evaluation of homicide mortality among Hispanics and non-Hispanic whites (Anglos) as separate ethnic groups. Therefore, this report uses a third regional data set to compare homicide risk among Hispanics, Anglos, and blacks. Death certificate information in five southwestern States (Arizona, California, Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas) allows for the identification of deaths of Anglos and Hispanics separately, and more than 60% of all Hispanics in the United States reside in these five States. Approximately 86% of the Hispanics in these States are of Mexican origin (11).

The offices of vital statistics of the respective State health departments provided either special tabulations or computer tapes of data on homicide deaths among Hispanics, Anglos, and blacks for the period 1977-1982; the States used the ICD classification system described previously. Homicide victims were categorized as Hispanic by State health departments if the surname on the death certificate appeared on a list of Spanish surnames used by the State office of vital statistics.

D. Population Data

Population data used to calculate rates were drawn from reports prepared by the U.S. Bureau of the Census. Data for 1970 were drawn directly from the 1970 census enumeration. However, changes in the reporting of race in the 1980 census resulted in inconsistencies between the 1970 and 1980 enumerations. For this reason, this report uses the modified 1980 census enumeration consistent with 1970 race data to calculate homicide rates for 1980. Population data for the intercensal years 1971-1979 and 1981-1983 were drawn from the P-25 series of the Current Population Reports compiled by the U.S. Bureau of the Census. These intercensal estimates incorporate data from both the 1970 and the modified 1980 censuses. Population data used to calculate homicide rates for specific States and regions in the United States (Table 6) come from the modified 1980 census enumeration for each State of residence. Age-adjusted homicide rates were calculated by the direct method of standardization (12), with the 1980 U.S. population as the standard.

Population data for calculating homicide rates for the different ethnic and racial groups in the five southwestern States were drawn from computer tapes of the Current Population Survey (CPS). The CPS accords Hispanic ethnicity to any person who, at the time of the survey, reports himself/herself as Mexican American, Chicano, Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or of other Spanish origin (13). These population statistics are estimates based on a weighted national sample. The sample was considered too small to determine reliable single-year or State-level population estimates by race/ethnicity, age, and sex; aggregate six-year rates (1977-1982) and three-year rates (1977-1979, 1980-1982) were therefore determined for the five-State area. These rates were calculated with the mean number of homicides for the specified period as the numerator and the mean population for the same period as the denominator.

IV. FINDINGS

A. Homicide in the United States

1. Homicide as a Cause of Death

In 1983, homicide was the 11th leading cause of death overall in the United States. However, the relative rank of homicide as a cause of death varied by race and age. In 1983, homicide was the 5th leading cause of death among blacks, the 14th leading cause of death among whites, and the 9th leading cause of death among persons of other races (Table 1).^{*} For each race group, homicide reached its highest rank as a cause of death during young adulthood (Tables 2a-c). For blacks, however, homicide was actually the leading cause of death for ages 15 to 34 (Table 2b).

The great toll that homicide takes among the young is reflected in the number of years of potential life lost (YPLL) before age 65. For blacks in 1983, homicide was the third leading cause of YPLL; for whites and others, it was the sixth leading cause of YPLL (Table 3).

^{*}Only the first 10 leading causes of death are reported in Table 1.

2. *The Risk of Homicide by Race*

According to NCHS data, from 1970 to 1983 blacks had by far the highest crude homicide rates of any racial group, for a 14-year rate of 37.4 homicides per 100,000 persons (Table 4a). Black homicide rates ranged from five to nine times greater than those of whites during this period.

Homicide data from the FBI-SHR computer files were analyzed for the years 1976 through 1983. For each year, fewer homicides were reported by SHR than by NCHS. However, in terms of homicide risk the pattern is the same: on the average, blacks die from homicide at crude rates six to seven times higher than those of whites, and persons of other races have intermediate rates, greater than those of whites but much less than those of blacks.

The age structures of the white and black populations in the United States differ to some extent. To adjust for the effect on homicide rates that might be due to differences in age structure, age-adjusted rates were calculated for each race group (Table 4b). After age-adjustment, the relative magnitude of the difference between black and white homicide rates was actually slightly increased.

3. *The Risk of Homicide by Race, Age, and Sex*

Regardless of race, homicide rates were generally highest among persons 20-34 years of age (Table 5a). In 1983 blacks in the 25-29 year age group had the highest age-specific rate (58.1 compared with 10.0 for whites in the same age group). When males and females were considered separately, the relative positions of the race groups in terms of homicide risk remained the same: for males in 1983, the homicide rate for blacks was six times greater than the rate for whites (Table 5b); for females, the homicide rate for blacks was four times that for whites (Table 5c). Considering race and sex simultaneously, black males were at highest risk, followed by black females, white males, and males of other (nonblack) minority races. White females had the lowest homicide rate (2.9).

Considering age as well as race and sex, young black males had the highest homicide rates, exceeding 80 deaths per 100,000 black males 20-39 years of age in 1983 (Table 5b). The homicide rate for black males 25-29 years of age was 99.8 per 100,000, the highest rate for any age-race-sex group.

4. *State and Regional Patterns of Homicide*

The risk of homicide victimization varies among the different States and regions of the country (Table 6). In 1980, 42.3% of all homicides occurred in the South and, when all races are considered together, the South had the highest overall age-adjusted homicide rate. When each race group was considered separately, however, homicide rates were highest in the West. The reason for this apparent inconsistency is that blacks (who have the highest homicide rates) make up a greater proportion of the population in the South than in the other regions of the country. This affects the rate for all races considered together, so that even though the actual risk of homicide in 1980 was higher in the West than in the South for each race group, the crude rate for all races considered together was highest in the South.

Homicide rates vary within regions as well. For example, in 1980 the age-adjusted rate of black homicide in the Northeast varied from a high of 44.0 per 100,000 in Pennsylvania to a low of zero in Vermont (Table 6). For whites, the highest homicide rates in the country occurred in New Mexico (18.0) followed by Texas (14.1) and California (12.7). For blacks, the highest rates occurred in Utah (66.9) followed by Missouri (65.0) and Nevada (59.7). For persons of other races, the highest homicide rates occurred in South Dakota (42.2) followed by Montana (26.8) and Alaska (23.4).

5. *Temporal Patterns*

Whites were the only race group that had an overall increase in homicide rates during the period under study. According to NCHS data, crude white homicide rates increased from 4.3 per 100,000 in 1970 to 5.6 per 100,000 in 1983, an overall increase of 30.2% (Table 4a). Blacks experienced a 21.7% decrease in homicide rates during the same period, from 38.2 to 29.9 per 100,000. For both blacks and persons of other races, homicide rates increased during the early 1970's (to 43.3 for blacks in 1972 and 10.8 for persons of other races in 1974) and then decreased fairly steadily through 1983. Although the rates determined from FBI-SHR data for 1976 to 1983 are lower than rates from NCHS data, the FBI-SHR rates nevertheless replicate the direction of the changes in rates indicated by NCHS data for the corresponding years (Figure 1).

From 1970 to 1982, homicide rates increased in almost every age category for whites, while homicide rates decreased in almost every age category for blacks (Figure 2). Because of these changes, the relative difference between black and white homicide rates narrowed during this period. In 1970, black homicide rates were more than 10 times greater than white rates for all persons 15-54 years of age (Table 5a); in 1983, black homicide rates were at least five times greater than white rates for all persons 15-54 years of age.

6. *Homicide Weapons*

During the period 1976 to 1983, two-thirds (66.4%) of black homicide victims were killed with firearms (Table 7). Of these homicide victims, more than three-quarters (76.8%) were killed with handguns. A slightly lower proportion of white homicide victims were killed with firearms (59.8%) during the same period; 69.3% of these victims were killed with handguns. Among persons of other races, 52.7% of all homicide victims were killed with firearms; 68.7% of these were killed with handguns. After handguns, cutting and piercing instruments were the next most frequently used weapons in each race group (Figure 3). Together, firearms and cutting and piercing instruments were the weapons used in almost 9 out of 10 homicides among blacks and almost 8 out of 10 homicides among whites and persons of other races.

7. *Relationship of Victim to Assailant*

Black homicide victims knew their assailant in 59.8% of all homicides that occurred during the period 1976 to 1983 (Table 8a). White homicide victims and victims of other races knew their assailant in almost half of all homicides (48.4% and 48.8%, respectively). The relationship of victim to assailant varied by sex as well as race. Among black male victims, the assailant was known in 58.3% of the cases, and in more than three-quarters of these homicides the assailant was an acquaintance, not a family member (Table 8b). However, among black female victims, the assailant was known in 65.8% of the cases, and in 43.8% of these homicides the assailant was a family member (Table 8c). Overall, 28.8% of black female homicide victims were killed by family members, compared with 13.3% of black male homicide victims.

This pattern, in which a larger proportion of female than male victims were killed by family members, was also seen among whites and persons of other races. Among white males and males of other races, the assailant was a family member in 12.1% and 11.4% of the cases, respectively (Table 8b). Among white female victims and female victims of other races, the assailant was a family member in 31.9% and 28.7% of the cases (Table 8c).

8. *Homicide by Race of Assailant*

The race of both the homicide victim and assailant was reported for 115,733 (73.7%) of the 157,003 homicides reported by the FBI-SHR for the period 1976 to 1983. For both blacks and whites, approximately 9 out of 10 homicide victims were killed by members of the same race (Figure 4). This proportion was greater for blacks (94.1%) than whites (87.0%). Black homicide victims were killed by white assailants in 5.7% of the cases; white homicide victims were killed by black assailants in 11.8% of the cases.

9. *Homicide Circumstances*

Homicide deaths may be classified according to whether the victim was killed during the commission of another felony (e.g., a robbery) or whether they occurred during nonfelony circumstances (e.g., an argument). Among blacks, almost two-thirds (64.8%) of all homicides that occurred from 1976 to 1983 were not related to any other felony (Figure 5). This proportion was somewhat lower among whites and persons of other races (56.2% and 59.1%, respectively), but nonfelony-associated homicides still accounted for most homicides in these race groups. "Other arguments" (arguments not related to money, property, or the influence of drugs or alcohol) accounted for the largest proportion of nonfelony-associated homicides in all race groups (Table 9).

B. Homicide in the Southwest

1. *The Risk of Homicide by Race/Ethnicity, Age and Sex*

In the five-State region of Arizona, California, Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas during the period 1977 to 1982, blacks had the highest 6-year homicide rate (46.0), Anglos had the lowest rate (7.9), and Hispanics had an intermediate rate (21.6) (Table 10). Age-adjusting these rates did not

appreciably change their relative magnitude. The regional homicide rate for Anglos is higher than the national rate for whites calculated for the same 6-year period (7.9 vs. 6.4, respectively). Similarly, the regional rate for blacks is higher than the national black homicide rate (46.0 vs. 36.9, respectively). This is consistent with the single-year NCHS data detailed in Table 6, which indicate higher-than-average homicide rates for both whites and blacks in all of the southwestern States except Colorado. However, the particularly high homicide rates reported by NCHS for whites in California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas (Table 6) appear to be due to high rates of homicide mortality among Hispanics living in those States (Table 10).

Overall, the risk of homicide among Hispanics was almost three times higher than among Anglos. Almost all of this increased risk was experienced by Hispanic males (Table 11). The homicide rate for Hispanic males was 38.7, more than three times the rate for Anglo males (11.6) living in the same region. Black males had the highest homicide rate (78.1), two times the rate for Hispanic males and almost seven times the rate for Anglo males.

The pattern was different for females. Black females still had the highest homicide rate (16.4), but the rate for Hispanic females was only slightly greater than that for Anglo females (4.8 v. 4.3, respectively). The relative difference between male and female homicide rates within a certain race/ethnic category can be expressed as the sex ratio (the ratio of male rates to female rates). Hispanics had the highest sex ratio for the 6-year period (8.1), followed by blacks (4.8), and then Anglos (2.7). This relationship held true in all age categories (Figure 6).

In the Southwest, as at the national level, the highest homicide rates were among young adults (Table 11). For Anglo and Hispanic males, the highest rate occurred among those 20-24 years of age (18.7 and 87.2, respectively); for black males, the highest rate occurred among those 25-29 years of age (173.5). For males in every age category, blacks had the highest rates, Hispanics had intermediate rates, and Anglos had the lowest rates. The homicide rate for Hispanic males 15-19 years of age approached that for black males in the same age group (53.3 vs. 62.1, respectively). For females in each age group, blacks had the highest rates. Hispanic females had slightly greater homicide rates than Anglo females in most age groups, but in general age-specific homicide rates for Anglo and Hispanic females were quite similar. The highest homicide rate for Anglo, Hispanic, and black females occurred in the 20-24 year age group (7.2, 9.2, and 30.0, respectively). In almost every age group, black females had higher homicide rates than white males.

2. Temporal Patterns

The rates described above are averages for the 6-year period 1977 to 1982. To determine whether rates were increasing or decreasing during this period, consecutive 3-year average rates were also determined, for the periods 1977 to 1979 and 1980 to 1982 (Table 12). Overall, Hispanics had the greatest increase in homicide rates from one period to the next (12.9%) and blacks experienced a lesser increase (5.1%). Rates for Anglos changed very little. For male Hispanics, the homicide rate increased in all age groups under 50 years of age; the highest percentage increase was among those in the 20-24 year age group (15.9%). Young black males also had notable increases in their homicide rates, with almost a 40% increase in the risk of homicide among those 20-24 years of age (from 137.2 to 191.9 in 1977-1979 and 1980-1982, respectively). Hispanic females had an overall increase of 8.7%, while rates for black females declined in almost all age groups.

3. Homicide Weapons

Death certificate data from the five southwestern States permitted an evaluation of homicide according to the weapon used, but the weapons classification is slightly different from the classification used in the national analysis. For the 6-year period 1977 to 1982, firearms and explosives were the weapons used in 70.3% of black homicides, 65.1% of the Hispanic homicides, and 58.7% of Anglo homicides (Table 13). For Hispanic males, almost a quarter (24.5%) of all homicide victims were killed with cutting and piercing instruments, compared with 18.1% and 18.5% for Anglo and black males, respectively. Hanging and strangulation accounted for a much greater proportion of homicide deaths among female than male victims in all race/ethnic groups.

V. DISCUSSION

The purposes of this analysis have been to identify groups at high risk of homicide victimization and to describe patterns of homicide in these groups. In so doing, we not only refine our understanding of homicide as a public health problem, but also provide baseline data to monitor progress toward national objectives for homicide prevention (14), to identify gaps in existing surveillance systems, and to evaluate the effectiveness of any future interventions. This analysis helps to bring to light the magnitude of the problem of homicide among certain racial and ethnic minorities. However, caution must be exercised in interpreting the findings. For example, this report very clearly documents that blacks are at higher risk of homicide than whites or persons of other races; however, the report does not tell us why. Rather, in defining blacks as a high-risk group, this report helps to focus public health attention and target resources for research and prevention on a population in greatest need. Furthermore, this comparison of patterns of homicide among high-risk and low-risk groups provides certain clues about the prevention of homicide and provides direction for future research.

In the section that follows, we discuss, for each of the high-risk groups identified in this report, the limitations of the data and the implications of our findings for homicide prevention and further research. We also discuss patterns of homicide common to all risk groups.

A. Homicide Mortality: Blacks

In every year of the 14-year period studied, in every region of the country, for both sexes and for every age group, blacks were many times more likely to die from homicide than whites or persons of other races. Black males consistently had the highest homicide rates of any race/sex group, and young black males were at especially high risk of homicide. These dramatic differences in the risk of homicide must be explained, and factors which place blacks at such high risk of homicide must be identified.

Previous research has identified several factors that may contribute to the high risk of homicide among blacks. Poverty has been suggested as an underlying economic risk factor for homicide (15,16) and, indeed, poverty is more prevalent among blacks in this country than among whites (17). The suggestion that poverty increases the risk of becoming a victim of homicide is supported by research that shows that when socioeconomic status is taken into consideration, racial differences in homicide mortality rates all but disappear (18,19). Unfortunately, neither the NCHS nor the FBI-SHR data provide information about the socioeconomic status of homicide victims. This is a critically important variable to consider, because if the high risk of homicide among blacks simply reflects higher average poverty rates, then preventive interventions should be targeted not toward blacks per se, but toward all persons living in poverty. And even if it can be established that poverty unequivocally increases the risk of homicide, we still must discover the mechanisms by which poverty increases that risk.

It has also been proposed that the high rate of homicide among blacks and other minority groups might be due to a subculture of violence (19-21). According to this theory, high homicide rates can be attributed to cultural norms and traditions shared by a subgroup of society (a "subculture") that prescribe or reinforce violence as an acceptable behavior pattern under certain circumstances. Finally, minority group status itself might increase the risk of homicide. Like poverty, the experience of prejudice and discrimination may produce intense feelings of frustration, which may in turn increase the likelihood of violent interactions (5).

Regardless of race, the highest risk of homicide is faced by young males, who are typically killed by friends or acquaintances using firearms (usually handguns) during the course of an argument. However, this pattern is most pronounced among black homicide victims. Further research is needed to understand the socioeconomic and cultural context in which friend/acquaintance violence occurs. In the meantime, educational efforts should be made to inform those at high risk that common arguments with friends and acquaintances may escalate to violent interactions with lethal consequences. This lethality might be reduced if, on the occasion of violent quarrels, lethal weapons such as handguns were not immediately available; further research is needed to test this hypothesis (22). Another approach might be the teaching of conflict resolution skills in school as part of the regular curriculum, so that arguments might not inevitably escalate to homicidal violence (23).

Efforts to prevent homicide must also address domestic violence. Further research is needed to identify the most effective strategies to decrease domestic violence (24). Approaches such as shelters for battered women, mandatory arrest policies, and treatment programs for abusive husbands already exist in some areas. If these programs are found to be effective, they could be expanded and their impact enhanced by teaching physicians, social workers, and criminal justice personnel how to recognize warning signs for domestic violence.

B. Homicide Mortality: Hispanics

Hispanics in the Southwest were also found to be at increased risk of homicide compared with non-Hispanic whites in the same region. Hispanic males in particular were more than three times more likely to die from homicide than Anglo males. Like blacks, Hispanics as a group are socioeconomically disadvantaged compared with non-Hispanic whites (25). However, among Hispanics in the Southwest, homicide risk was largely increased only among males. This sex difference suggests the possibility of mitigating factors which act to lessen the risk of homicide among Hispanic females. Further research is needed to explore this possibility.

Hispanics in the Southwest are largely of Mexican descent (11). Thus, the increased Hispanic homicide rates noted in this report are relevant primarily for Hispanics of Mexican origin. It is not known whether homicide rates among Hispanics of Cuban, Puerto Rican, Central or South American or other Spanish origin are also at increased risk of homicide relative to Anglos. Differences in risk among Hispanics of different descent might suggest specific risk factors for homicide victimization. These might include socioeconomic status, the influence of cultural factors, or factors related to immigrant status. Therefore, further research is needed to evaluate the risk of homicide among Hispanics of other than Mexican descent.

Regional ethnicity-specific data on victim-assailant relationships and homicide circumstances were not available for this report. In Los Angeles, homicides among Hispanic males were most frequently committed by friends or acquaintances, and homicide committed by strangers was the second most frequent victim-assailant relationship (5). Hispanic male homicide victims were most often killed in association with a verbal argument, but gang-related homicides were also relatively frequent, moreso than for black or non-Hispanic white males. Whether the findings among Hispanics in Los Angeles can be generalized to Hispanics in the Southwest remains to be established.

C. Homicide Mortality: Nonblack Minority Races

Nationally, persons of nonblack minority races were also found to be at increased risk of homicide relative to whites, a pattern that was evident among both males and females and in almost all age groups. Unfortunately, these results are difficult to interpret. The 1980 census had 13 separate categories for nonblack racial minorities, and the risk of homicide victimization varies widely from one group to the next (1). However, the increased rates noted in this report for persons of other races may be due largely to high homicide rates among Native Americans (American Indians, Aleuts, and Eskimos). Native American homicide rates in 1980 were 70% higher than those of whites (26), whereas Asian/Pacific Islanders as a group were not at increased risk of homicide relative to whites (27). Native Americans constitute 12% of the non-black minority population (28), yet in 1982 homicides among Native Americans accounted for 43% of all homicides among persons in this group (29). Furthermore, States that are known to have relatively large numbers of Native Americans (Alaska, Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota) have some of the highest homicide rates for persons of nonblack minority races (Table 6).

For persons of other races, more reliable data are needed to specifically identify groups at increased risk of homicide. If much of the increased homicide risk is indeed among Native Americans, then is this increased risk common among different tribes? Is risk increased only for Native Americans living on reservations, or also for those living off reservations? What are the circumstances surrounding homicides in this minority group? Is socioeconomic status an important risk factor? These questions must be answered in order to devise and target appropriate preventive interventions.

D. Common Patterns of Homicide

Despite dramatic differences in the *risk* of homicide among various race and ethnic groups, the *patterns* of homicide in these different groups are similar in a number of ways. Specifically, for each race and ethnic group considered:

- males were many times more likely to die of homicide than females;
- for both males and females, homicide rates were highest among young adults, peaking among those 20-34 years of age;
- more than half of all homicide victims were killed with firearms, most of which were handguns;
- more than half of all homicide victims were killed in the course of an argument or some other nonfelony circumstance, and only a small proportion of homicide victims were killed by assailants who were perpetrating another crime (e.g., robbery)*;
- half of all homicide victims knew their assailants*;
- a greater proportion of female homicide victims were killed by family members than male homicide victims; conversely, a greater proportion of male than female homicide victims were killed by acquaintances or strangers*;
- homicide rates were highest in the West*.

This commonality in homicide patterns among different race and ethnic groups suggests that, despite marked differences in the risk of homicide, the fundamental causes of homicide may be much the same regardless of race or ethnicity. Differences in homicide rates presumably arise because certain race or ethnic groups experience factors that increase the risk of death from homicide more frequently or more intensely than do others.

Patterns of homicide common to all race and ethnic groups allow for the development of general preventive interventions. Because homicide rates are highest for young adult males, educational strategies should be specifically targeted at this population. Young adults should be made fully aware of their risk of victimization and the steps they can take to reduce this risk. Males are at higher risk of death from homicide than females, regardless of race or ethnicity, and this may be due in large part to the way males in our society are taught to respond to conflicts. Therefore, efforts might focus on teaching appropriate conflict resolution skills. Most homicide victims are killed with firearms, and most homicides occur between friends and acquaintances or family members during the heat of an argument. Decreasing the immediately availability of firearms during such arguments might have the most dramatic effect in preventing these tragic deaths. These actions represent only a sample of a broad array of potentially preventive interventions that have recently been proposed (23, 30).

This analysis has focused on homicide victims from a public health perspective. Yet, an obviously important factor in the risk of victimization is exposure to persons who are "at risk" of committing homicide. The issue of what factors lead a person to commit homicide has long been examined by behavioral scientists such as sociologists and criminologists. This is one reason why the most fruitful approach to homicide prevention will involve close collaboration among a variety of disciplines. More importantly, although this report has focused on the tremendous health impact of homicide, there are clearly important criminal, social, environmental, and behavioral dimensions to the problem of homicide as well. Homicide can best be prevented through multidisciplinary efforts that involve community leaders as well as experts in the areas of criminology, sociology, psychiatry, and public health. We hope that this report will stimulate such collaboration.

*These points apply for all race groups considered; data were not available by ethnicity.

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Rank	Cause of death	White		Cause of death	Black		Cause of death	Other	
		Number of deaths	Percent		Number of deaths	Percent		Number of deaths	Percent
1	Heart Disease	689,667	39.1	Heart Disease	74,976	32.2	Heart Disease	5,662	27.7
2	Malignant Neoplasms	389,978	22.1	Malignant Neoplasms	48,728	20.9	Malignant Neoplasms	4,217	20.6
3	Cerebrovascular Disease	135,580	7.7	Cerebrovascular Disease	18,554	8.0	Accidents	1,993	9.7
4	Accidents	78,515	4.4	Accidents	11,862	5.1	Cerebrovascular Disease	1,437	7.0
5	Bronchitis, Asthma and Emphysema	61,697	3.5	Homicide	8,376	3.6	Pneumonia and Influenza	623	3.0
6	Pneumonia and Influenza	49,989	2.8	Perinatal Conditions	6,097	2.6	Suicide	513	2.5
7	Diabetes	29,986	1.7	Diabetes	5,788	2.5	Diabetes	468	2.3
8	Suicide	26,145	1.5	Pneumonia and Influenza	5,227	2.2	Bronchitis, Asthma and Emphysema	467	2.3
9	Atherosclerosis	24,450	1.4	Bronchitis, Asthma and Emphysema	4,066	1.7	Homicide	457	2.2
10	Liver Disease	22,919	1.3	Liver Disease	3,882	1.7	Liver Disease	456	2.2
All other causes		256,237	14.5		45,412	19.5		4,154	20.3
Total		1,765,163	100.0		232,968	100.0		20,447	100.0

*Excludes persons with unknown age.

Table 2a — Ten leading causes of death for whites by age group, United States, 1983

Rank	1	1-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Total*
1	Benign Neoplasms	Accidents	Accidents	Accidents	Malignant Neoplasms	Malignant Neoplasms	Heart Diseases	Heart Diseases	Heart Diseases
2	Accidents	Malignant Neoplasms	Suicide	Suicide	Heart Diseases	Heart Diseases	Malignant Neoplasms	Malignant Neoplasms	Malignant Neoplasms
3	Accidents	Congenital Anomalies	Homicide	Malignant Neoplasms	Accidents	Accidents	Cerebrovascular Diseases	Cerebrovascular Diseases	Cerebrovascular Diseases
4	Heart Diseases	Heart Diseases	Malignant Neoplasms	Homicide	Suicide	Liver Diseases and Cirrhosis	Bronchitis, Asthma and Emphysema	Bronchitis, Asthma and Emphysema	Accidents
5	Pneumonia and Influenza	Homicide	Heart Diseases	Heart Diseases	Liver Diseases and Cirrhosis	Cerebrovascular Diseases	Liver Diseases and Cirrhosis	Pneumonia and Influenza	Bronchitis, Asthma and Emphysema
6	Meningitis	Pneumonia and Influenza	Congenital Anomalies	Liver Diseases and Cirrhosis	Homicide	Suicide	Accidents	Atherosclerosis	Pneumonia and Influenza
7	Septicemia	Meningitis	Cerebrovascular Diseases	Cerebrovascular Diseases	Cerebrovascular Diseases	Bronchitis, Asthma and Emphysema	Diabetes	Diabetes	Diabetes
8	Nephritis and Nephrosis	Suicide	Pneumonia and Influenza	Diabetes	Diabetes	Diabetes	Suicide	Accidents	Suicide
9	Malignant Neoplasms	Benign Neoplasms	Bronchitis, Asthma and Emphysema	Congenital Anomalies	Pneumonia and Influenza	Pneumonia and Influenza	Pneumonia and Influenza	Nephritis and Nephrosis	Atherosclerosis
10	Homicide	Cerebrovascular Diseases	Benign Neoplasms	Pneumonia and Influenza	Bronchitis, Asthma and Emphysema	Homicide	Nephritis and Nephrosis	Liver Diseases and Cirrhosis	Liver Diseases and Cirrhosis
Residual	104	114	98	347	329	1,067	1,429	8,763	22,919
Total Deaths	1,765,163	1,765,163	1,765,163	1,765,163	1,765,163	1,765,163	1,765,163	1,765,163	1,765,163

*Excludes persons of unknown age
 **Deaths from all other causes

Table 2b — Ten leading causes of death for blacks by age group, United States, 1983

Rank	< 1	1-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Total*
1	Perinatal Conditions 6 051	Accidents 1 498	Homicide 2 296	Homicide 2 781	Heart Diseases 2 509	Heart Diseases 6 530	Heart Diseases 14 252	Heart Diseases 49 960	Heart Diseases 74 976
2	Congenital Anomalies 1 443	Malignant Neoplasms 282	Accidents 1 792	Accidents 2 117	Malignant Neoplasms 2 145	Malignant Neoplasms 6 111	Malignant Neoplasms 12 557	Malignant Neoplasms 26 532	Malignant Neoplasms 48 728
3	Pneumonia and Influenza 279	Homicide 286	Suicide 399	Heart Diseases 974	Accidents 1 398	Cerebrovascular Diseases 1 494	Cerebrovascular Diseases 2 903	Cerebrovascular Diseases 13 062	Cerebrovascular Diseases 18 554
4	Heart Diseases 277	Congenital Anomalies 251	Heart Diseases 314	Malignant Neoplasms 780	Homicide 1 236	Accidents 1 177	Diabetes 1 325	Diabetes 3 504	Accidents 11 862
5	Accidents 267	Heart Diseases 160	Malignant Neoplasms 301	Suicide 505	Liver Diseases and Cirrhosis 835	Liver Diseases and Cirrhosis 992	Accidents 1 225	Pneumonia and Influenza 3 203	Homicide 6 376
6	Meningitis 106	Pneumonia and Influenza 88	Congenital Anomalies 88	Liver Diseases and Cirrhosis 412	Cerebrovascular Diseases 677	Homicide 720	Liver Diseases and Cirrhosis 974	Bronchitis, Asthma and Emphysema 2 443	Perinatal Conditions 6 097
7	Septicemia 96	Anemias 80	Cerebrovascular Diseases 85	Cerebrovascular Diseases 266	Pneumonia and Influenza 274	Diabetes 550	Bronchitis, Asthma and Emphysema 921	Accidents 2 388	Diabetes 5 788
8	Homicide 81	Bronchitis, Asthma and Emphysema 64	Anemias 84	Pneumonia and Influenza 218	Suicide 253	Pneumonia and Influenza 413	Pneumonia and Influenza 700	Nephritis and Nephrosis 2 301	Pneumonia and Influenza 5 227
9	Nephritis and Nephrosis 71	Meningitis 48	Bronchitis, Asthma and Emphysema 65	Diabetes 125	Diabetes 240	Bronchitis, Asthma and Emphysema 370	Nephritis and Nephrosis 581	Septicemia 1 610	Bronchitis, Asthma and Emphysema 4 066
10	Cerebrovascular Diseases 41	Perinatal Conditions 40	Pneumonia and Influenza 52	Anemias 99	Bronchitis, Asthma and Emphysema 144	Nephritis and Nephrosis 225	Homicide 491	Atherosclerosis 1 596	Liver Diseases and Cirrhosis 3 882
Residual**	2 530	809	1 054	2 677	2 982	3 796	5 882	7 035	45 412
Total Deaths	11 242	3 578	6 529	10 954	12 832	22 328	41 811	123 694	232 968

*Excludes persons of unknown age

**Deaths from all other causes

Table 2c — Ten leading causes of death for others by age group, United States, 1983

Rank	1	1-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Total*
1	Perinatal Conditions	Accidents	Accidents	Accidents	Malignant Neoplasms	Malignant Neoplasms	Heart Diseases	Heart Diseases	Heart Diseases
2	Congenital Anomalies	Malignant Neoplasms	Suicide	Homicide	Accidents	Heart Disease	Malignant Neoplasms	Malignant Neoplasms	Malignant Neoplasms
3	Heart Diseases	Congenital Anomalies	Homicide	Malignant Neoplasms	Heart Diseases	Accidents	Cerebrovascular Diseases	Cerebrovascular Diseases	Accidents
4	Pneumonia and Influenza	Heart Diseases	Neoplasms	Suicide	Liver Diseases and Cirrhosis	Liver Diseases and Cirrhosis	Accidents	Pneumonia and Influenza	Cerebrovascular Diseases
5	Accidents	Homicide	Heart Diseases	Heart Diseases	Suicide	Cerebrovascular Diseases	Diabetes	Bronchitis, Asthma and Emphysema	Pneumonia and Influenza
6	Meningitis	Pneumonia and Influenza	Congenital Anomalies	Liver Diseases and Cirrhosis	Homicide	Homicide	Liver Diseases and Cirrhosis	Diabetes	Suicide
7	Homicide	Benign Neoplasms	Bronchitis, Asthma and Emphysema	Cerebrovascular Diseases	Cerebrovascular Diseases	Suicide	Bronchitis, Asthma and Emphysema	Accidents	Diabetes
8	Septicemia	Bronchitis, Asthma and Emphysema	Cerebrovascular Diseases	Pneumonia and Influenza	Pneumonia and Influenza	Diabetes	Pneumonia and Influenza	Nephritis and Nephrosis	Bronchitis, Asthma and Emphysema
9	Malignant Neoplasms	Suicide	Pneumonia and Influenza	Complications of Pregnancy	Diabetes	Pneumonia and Influenza	Suicide	Atherosclerosis	Homicide
10	Viral Hepatitis	Anemias	Liver Diseases and Cirrhosis	Congenital Anomalies	Nephritis and Nephrosis	Septicemia	Nephritis and Nephrosis	Liver Diseases and Cirrhosis	Liver Diseases and Cirrhosis
Residual**	316	117	119	177	200	273	402	1,614	4,154
Total Deaths	1,084	508	1,000	1,146	1,282	1,869	3,002	10,556	20,447

*Excludes persons of unknown age

**Deaths from all other causes

**Table 3. The Ten Leading Causes of Potential Life Lost (YPLL)
Before Age 65, 1983**

Rank	Cause of death	White		Cause of death	Black		Cause of death	Other	
		Number of deaths	Percent		Number of deaths	Percent		Number of deaths	Percent
1	Accidents	1,926,415	21.3	Accidents	315,963	12.8	Accidents	59,408	22.9
2	Malignant Neoplasms	1,512,506	16.7	Heart Disease	307,142	12.4	Malignant Neoplasms	31,644	12.2
3	Heart Disease	1,290,190	14.3	Homicide	268,171	10.9	Heart Disease	22,887	8.8
4	Suicide	570,365	6.3	Malignant Neoplasms	266,285	10.8	Congenital Malformations	19,938	7.7
5	Congenital Malformations	562,455	6.2	Prematurity	146,773	5.9	Suicide	15,016	5.8
6	Homicide	326,332	3.6	Congenital Malformations	116,536	4.7	Homicide	14,741	5.7
7	Prematurity	297,534	3.3	Sudden Infant Death Syndrome	97,912	4.0	Sudden Infant Death Syndrome	11,224	4.3
8	Sudden Infant Death Syndrome	233,039	2.6	Cerebrovascular Disease	71,112	2.9	Prematurity	8,966	3.5
9	Cerebrovascular Disease	181,209	2.0	Liver Disease	56,808	2.3	Liver Disease	6,498	2.5
10	Liver Disease	180,545	2.0	Pneumonia and Influenza	49,527	2.0	Disease Cerebrovascular	5,198	2.0
All other causes		1,968,444	21.8		774,804	31.4		63,568	24.5
Total		9,049,034	100.0		2,471,033	100.0		259,088	100.0

Sources
See p. 39 for a complete listing
Source 1

Table 4a. Number and Rate* of Homicide by Race of Victim and Year of Death
United States, 1970-83

Year	NCHS National Mortality Data								FBI Supplemental Homicide Report Data							
	White		Black		Other		Total		White		Black		Other		Total**	
	#	Rate	#	Rate	#	Rate	#	Rate	#	Rate	#	Rate	#	Rate	#	Rate
1970	7,647	4.3	8,657	38.2	211	8.1	16,515	8.1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1971	8,346	4.6	9,770	42.2	259	9.4	18,375	8.9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1972	8,840	4.8	10,202	43.3	296	10.2	19,338	9.2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1973	9,798	5.3	9,998	41.7	293	9.5	20,089	9.5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1974	10,460	5.6	10,277	42.2	353	10.8	21,090	9.9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1975	10,792	5.8	9,871	40.0	311	8.8	20,974	9.7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1976	9,958	5.3	8,955	35.7	343	9.0	19,256	8.9	8,589	4.6	7,993	31.9	344	9.1	16,982	7.8
1977	10,579	5.6	8,762	34.4	358	8.9	19,699	9.0	9,541	5.0	8,335	32.7	359	8.9	18,265	8.3
1978	11,052	5.8	8,741	33.8	373	8.8	20,166	9.1	10,211	5.3	8,379	32.4	353	8.3	18,994	8.6
1979	12,149	6.3	9,656	36.7	397	8.8	22,202	9.9	11,295	5.8	9,170	34.9	454	10.0	20,972	9.3
1980	13,360	6.8	10,172	38.0	435	8.3	23,967	10.5	11,824	6.1	9,542	35.7	312	6.0	22,327	9.8
1981	12,904	6.5	10,019	36.8	438	7.7	23,361	10.2	11,019	5.6	9,080	33.4	316	5.6	20,548	9.0
1982	12,272	6.2	9,357	33.8	444	7.3	22,073	9.5	10,965	5.5	8,484	30.7	373	6.2	19,908	8.6
1983	11,075	5.6	8,387	29.9	460	7.2	19,922	8.5	10,383	5.2	8,131	28.9	407	6.4	19,007	8.1
Total	149,232	5.6	132,824	37.4	4,971	8.5	287,027	9.4	83,827	5.4	69,114	32.6	2,918	7.6	157,003	8.7

*Rate per 100,000 persons

**Includes 1,144 persons with unknown race.

Table 4b. Crude(C) and Age-Adjusted(AA)* Homicide Rates** by Race of Victim and Year
United States, 1970-83

Year	NCHS								FBI							
	National Mortality Data								Supplemental Homicide Reports							
	White		Black		Other		Total		White		Black		Other		Total	
	C	AA	C	AA	C	AA	C	AA	C	AA	C	AA	C	AA	C	AA
1970	4.3	4.6	38.2	44.0	8.1	7.9	8.1	8.8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1971	4.6	4.9	42.2	48.1	9.4	10.1	8.9	9.6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1972	4.8	5.1	43.3	48.9	10.2	10.8	9.2	9.8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1973	5.3	5.5	41.7	46.8	9.5	11.2	9.5	10.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1974	5.6	5.8	42.2	46.8	10.8	11.2	9.9	10.3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1975	5.8	5.9	40.0	43.8	8.8	9.3	9.7	10.1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1976	5.3	5.4	35.7	38.8	9.0	9.0	8.9	9.1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1977	5.6	5.6	34.4	36.8	8.9	9.0	9.0	9.1	4.6	4.6	31.9	34.3	9.1	8.9	7.8	7.9
1978	5.8	5.8	33.8	35.6	8.8	8.8	9.1	9.2	5.0	5.0	32.7	34.7	8.9	9.1	8.3	8.4
1979	6.3	6.2	36.7	38.4	8.8	8.8	9.9	9.9	5.3	5.3	32.4	33.9	8.3	8.1	8.6	8.5
1980	6.8	7.0	38.0	43.2	8.3	8.4	10.5	10.5	5.8	5.7	34.9	36.1	10.0	9.7	9.3	9.2
1981	6.5	6.5	36.8	37.7	7.7	7.7	10.2	10.1	6.1	6.1	35.7	40.0	6.0	6.0	9.8	9.7
1982	6.2	6.1	33.8	34.3	7.3	7.3	9.5	9.4	5.6	5.4	33.4	33.9	5.6	5.5	9.0	8.7
1983	5.6	5.5	29.9	30.2	7.2	7.1	8.5	8.4	5.5	5.4	30.7	30.8	6.2	6.1	8.6	8.4
									5.2	5.1	28.9	28.9	6.4	6.1	8.1	7.9

*Age-adjusted using the 1980 population as the standard

**Rate per 100,000 persons; age-adjusted rates exclude persons with age not stated
Data not available

Table 5a. Homicide Rates* by Race and Age of Victim
United States, 1970 and 1983

Age Group	White		Black		1970
	1970	1983	1970	1983	
0-4	0.0	0.0	17.8	13.8	6.4
5-9	0.0	0.0	10.7	6.4	0.8
10-14	0.0	0.0	17.6	12.8	1.0
15-19	0.0	0.0	14.6	25.8	1.7
20-24	0.0	0.0	37.9	26.7	10.1
25-29	0.0	0.0	84.1	72.0	10.2
30-34	0.0	0.0	88.7	81.1	11.4
35-39	0.0	8.0	80.3	86.0	14.8
40-44	0.0	8.4	78.1	47.2	8.4
45-49	0.0	4.4	66.3	41.4	8.8
50-54	0.0	4.4	39.1	34.1	10.1
55-59	0.0	4.4	31.1	28.4	7.1
60-64	0.0	4.4	33.8	26.1	10.8
65-69	0.0	8.4	39.7	22.1	18.3
70-74	0.0	0.0	24.1	28.0	9.1
75-79	0.0	0.0	17.8	24.2	0.0
80-84	0.0	0.0	9.8	18.9	3.6
85-89	0.0	0.0	13.9	17.7	0.0
90-94	0.0	4.4	13.0	16.1	0.0
Total**	4.3	6.6	38.3	29.8	7.3
Median Age	40.4	31.4	31.6	30.1	31.5

Table 5b. Homicide Rates* by Race, Age of Victim, and Sex,
United States, 1970 and 1983

Age Group	White		Black		1970
	1970	1983	1970	1983	
0-4	0.0	0.0	4.1	2.8	6.2
5-9	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.9	0.0
10-14	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.2	1.3
15-19	0.0	0.0	10.8	4.1	2.0
20-24	0.0	0.0	61.0	42.6	14.2
25-29	0.0	0.0	81.1	87.2	16.1
30-34	0.0	0.0	74.1	69.8	14.9
35-39	0.0	0.0	48.0	68.8	20.8
40-44	0.0	0.0	33.0	84.0	17.4
45-49	0.0	0.0	28.1	76.0	17.2
50-54	0.0	0.0	26.1	61.7	16.6
55-59	0.0	0.0	27.1	47.1	15.1
60-64	0.0	0.0	21.1	31.1	13.1
65-69	0.0	0.0	44.1	41.1	14.1
70-74	0.0	0.0	41.1	31.1	13.1
75-79	0.0	0.0	31.1	21.1	11.1
80-84	0.0	0.0	8.1	11.1	7.1
85-89	0.0	0.0	11.1	11.1	6.1
90-94	0.0	0.0	11.1	11.1	6.1
Total**	6.6	8.9	66.0	53.7	10.3
Median Age	36.3	32.1	31.7	30.4	32.0

* Rates per 100,000.

** Excludes "Not Stated."

**Table 5c. Homicide Rates* by Race, Age of Victim, and Sex,
United States, 1970 and 1983**

Age Group	FEMALE					
	White		Black		Other	
	1970	1983	1970	1983	1970	1983
Under 1	2.9	3.8	10.7	14.2	6.5	7.4
1-4	1.2	1.2	6.3	5.9	1.7	2.0
5-9	0.4	0.7	1.7	1.4	0.7	1.5
10-14	0.6	0.7	2.3	1.5	1.3	0.4
15-19	2.0	2.9	10.6	10.6	5.9	5.8
20-24	3.5	4.4	26.6	20.2	4.3	4.8
25-29	3.5	4.6	27.5	20.5	8.2	9.2
30-34	3.2	3.5	23.4	19.1	9.3	3.3
35-39	3.2	3.4	27.0	16.2	5.8	4.2
40-44	3.3	3.5	23.1	12.9	6.3	4.6
45-49	2.4	3.3	19.6	11.6	6.7	4.5
50-54	2.0	2.5	15.1	7.5	1.8	3.6
55-59	2.1	2.4	8.1	8.1	7.0	2.4
60-64	1.8	2.0	8.0	4.4	3.0	1.0
65-69	1.7	2.1	8.3	8.8	0.0	1.3
70-74	1.6	1.8	6.9	5.3	0.0	3.6
75-79	2.3	3.0	3.5	11.9	0.0	2.8
80-84	2.7	3.2	9.4	8.8	0.0	0.0
85 +	1.9	3.9	9.8	9.4	0.0	0.0
Total**	2.1	2.9	13.2	11.6	4.4	4.0
Median Age	34.5	33.4	31.2	29.1	30.5	28.2

*Rate per 100,000 population.

**Includes persons with age not stated.

Sources:

See p. 39 for a complete listing.

Sources 1, 2, 24, 25

Table 6. Number and Age-Adjusted Rate* of Homicide by State and Geographic Region of Occurrence and Race of Victim, United States, 1980

	Total		White		Black		Other	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
United States	23,967	10.5	13,360	7.0	10,172	39.7	435	3.9
Northeast:	4,088	8.3	2,231	5.3	1,811	37.6	46	2.3
Connecticut	168	8.4	113	4.0	55	24.3	0	0.0
Mass.	38	3.1	33	3.0	1	27.4	1	7.8
Mass. (Incl. D.C.)	284	4.4	201	3.7	52	23.3	1	0.5
N. H.	17	1.8	17	1.9	0	0.0	0	0.0
N. Jersey	819	7.1	267	4.3	248	27.5	4	1.6
N. York	1,200	12.6	1,162	8.3	1,003	41.6	35	2.9
Penn.	873	7.1	369	3.8	449	44.0	5	3.4
R.I.	88	8.8	52	8.8	3	12.0	0	0.0
Vermont	17	3.3	17	3.3	0	0.0	0	0.0
North Central:	4,882	8.3	2,327	4.5	2,507	48.5	48	3.4
Ill.	1,123	12.5	582	6.3	839	51.2	2	0.3
Ind.	431	7.9	238	4.8	193	49.5	0	0.0
Iowa	78	2.6	89	2.1	18	35.3	1	3.5
Kent.	176	7.6	127	6.0	47	39.9	2	4.6
Mich.	998	10.8	573	4.7	623	84.1	2	0.9
Minn.	118	2.9	98	2.4	18	27.3	8	7.9
Missouri	608	12.3	274	6.3	328	68.0	3	4.6
N. Dak.	66	4.3	48	3.1	18	37.8	3	10.3
South Dak.	13	2.0	7	1.1	0	0.0	6	22.7
Ohio	810	7.8	424	4.4	388	37.1	1	0.7
South Dak. (Incl. D.C.)	24	3.6	8	0.8	0	0.0	19	42.2
Wisconsin	143	3.0	98	2.2	44	28.2	1	1.4
South:	10,132	13.5	5,341	9.0	4,712	35.7	79	3.4
Alabama	617	16.2	267	9.2	350	40.1	0	0.0
Arkansas	252	11.5	131	7.1	120	38.2	1	3.9
Delaware	46	7.6	31	6.3	18	16.7	0	0.0
District of Columbia	169	24.7	18	7.1	154	33.2	0	0.0
Florida	1,498	16.1	843	10.8	649	51.5	6	2.4
Georgia	802	14.7	331	8.2	466	34.3	5	12.5
Kentucky	332	9.2	287	7.7	75	31.4	0	0.0
Louisiana	682	16.8	241	8.3	440	38.7	1	3.9
Maryland	419	9.8	181	4.7	268	26.0	3	2.4
Mississippi	360	15.1	112	7.0	246	32.8	2	9.2
North Carolina	662	11.2	313	6.8	338	27.3	14	15.3
Oklahoma	322	10.8	224	8.6	77	38.0	21	9.9
South Carolina	387	12.4	163	7.4	224	26.2	0	0.0
Tennessee	543	11.8	298	7.6	248	37.2	0	0.0
Texas	2,396	16.7	1,898	14.1	779	47.2	22	1.6
Virginia	486	8.9	234	8.3	249	28.7	3	2.2
West Virginia	159	8.3	138	7.8	20	34.5	1	10.9
West:	4,865	11.0	3,461	9.7	1,142	48.9	262	4.8
Alaska	33	6.9	12	2.7	3	14.8	18	23.4
Arizona	283	10.4	218	9.7	30	44.5	35	10.1
California	3,433	14.1	2,349	12.7	980	51.6	104	3.3
Colorado	188	6.3	149	8.6	34	33.4	5	2.3
Hawaii	71	7.4	31	9.8	0	0.0	40	6.5
Idaho	33	3.4	32	3.6	0	0.0	1	0.0
Montana	41	5.2	29	3.9	0	0.0	12	26.8
Nevada	130	15.3	94	12.4	31	59.7	5	13.4
New Mexico	204	15.5	177	18.0	9	38.9	18	5.5
Oregon	140	8.2	124	4.9	10	29.0	6	6.1
Utah	84	3.8	47	3.8	5	66.9	2	3.6
Washington	226	5.3	173	4.4	39	37.2	14	6.1
Wyoming	29	6.1	26	8.8	1	25.8	2	8.4

*Rate per 100,000 population; age-adjusted rates exclude persons with age not stated

Sources:
See p. 39 for a complete listing.
Sources 12, 26

**Table 7. Number and Percentage of Homicides by Race of Victim and Weapon
United States, 1976-1983***

Weapon	White					
	1976		1983		1976-1983	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Guns	5,177	60.3	5,936	57.2	50,145	59.8
Handguns	3,564	41.5	4,228	40.7	34,772	41.5
Longguns	1,361	15.8	1,344	12.9	12,339	14.7
Other guns	252	2.9	364	3.5	3,034	3.6
Cutting or piercing instruments	1,440	16.8	2,108	20.3	15,383	18.4
Other weapons	1,665	19.4	2,011	19.4	12,247	18.2
Undetermined	307	3.6	328	3.2	3,052	3.6
Total	8,589	100.0	10,383	100.0	83,827	100.0

Weapon	Black					
	1976		1983		1976-1983	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Guns	5,547	69.4	4,989	61.4	45,904	66.4
Handguns	4,219	52.8	4,007	49.3	35,259	51.0
Longguns	1,055	13.2	726	8.9	7,898	11.4
Other guns	273	3.4	256	3.1	2,747	4.0
Cutting or piercing instruments	1,451	18.2	1,908	23.5	14,122	20.4
Other weapons	850	10.6	1,045	12.9	7,801	11.3
Undetermined	145	1.8	189	2.3	1,287	1.9
Total	7,993	100.0	8,131	100.0	69,114	100.0

Weapon	Other Races					
	1976		1983		1976-1983	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Guns	181	52.6	224	55.0	1,539	52.7
Handguns	114	33.1	159	39.1	1,058	36.3
Longguns	54	15.7	52	12.8	399	13.7
Other guns	13	3.8	13	3.2	82	2.8
Cutting or piercing instruments	86	25.0	89	21.9	697	23.9
Other weapons	58	16.9	71	17.4	558	19.1
Undetermined	19	5.5	23	5.7	124	4.2
Total	344	100.0	407	100.0	2,918	100.0

*Excludes 56 persons (1976), 86 persons (1983), and 1,144 persons (1976-83) for whom race was unknown

Sources:
See p. 39 for a complete listing.
Sources 15-22

**Table 8a. Number and Percentage of Homicides by Race of Victim
and Relationship of Victim to Assailant
United States, 1976-1983***

Relationship	White					
	1976		1983		1976-1983	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Known to Victim	4,514	52.6	5,344	51.5	40,557	48.4
Family	1,685	19.6	1,838	17.7	14,497	17.3
Acquaintance	2,829	32.9	3,506	33.8	26,060	31.1
Not Known to Victim	1,465	17.1	1,778	17.1	13,779	16.4
Undetermined	2,610	30.4	3,261	31.4	29,491	35.2
Total	8,589	100.0	10,383	100.0	83,827	100.0

Weapon	Black					
	1976		1983		1976-1983	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Known to Victim	5,353	67.0	4,744	58.3	41,298	59.8
Family	1,559	19.5	1,294	15.9	11,324	16.4
Acquaintance	3,794	47.5	3,450	42.4	29,974	43.4
Not Known to Victim	930	11.6	1,039	12.8	8,436	12.2
Undetermined	1,710	21.4	2,348	28.9	19,380	28.0
Total	7,993	100.0	8,131	100.0	69,114	100.0

Weapon	Other Races					
	1976		1983		1976-1983	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Known to Victim	188	54.7	196	48.2	1,425	48.8
Family	70	20.3	59	14.5	471	16.1
Acquaintance	118	34.3	137	33.7	954	32.7
Not Known to Victim	48	14.0	81	19.9	473	16.2
Undetermined	108	31.4	130	31.9	1,020	35.0
Total	344	100.0	407	100.0	2,918	100.0

*Excludes 56 persons (1976), 86 persons (1983), and 1,144 persons (1976-83) for whom race was unknown.

Sources:
See p. 39 for a complete listing.
Sources 15-22

**Table 8b. Number and Percentage of Homicides by Race and Sex
of Victim, and Relationship of Victim to Assailant
United States, 1976-1983***

Relationship	White males					
	1976		1983		1976-1983	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Known to Victim	3,175	50.7	3,718	49.0	28,298	45.7
Family	869	13.9	937	12.4	7,492	12.1
Acquaintance	2,306	36.8	2,781	36.7	20,806	33.6
Not Known to Victim	1,245	19.9	1,462	19.3	11,513	18.6
Undetermined	1,847	29.5	2,406	31.7	22,052	35.6
Total	6,267	100.0	7,586	100.0	61,863	100.0

Weapon	Black males					
	1976		1983		1976-1983	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Known to Victim	4,162	65.5	3,675	56.4	32,299	58.3
Family	996	15.7	854	13.1	7,382	13.3
Acquaintance	3,166	49.8	2,821	43.3	24,917	44.9
Not Known to Victim	830	13.1	938	14.4	7,641	13.8
Undetermined	1,363	21.4	1,898	29.2	15,506	28.0
Total	6,355	100.0	6,511	100.0	55,446	100.0

Weapon	Other males					
	1976		1983		1976-1983	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Known to Victim	131	53.3	124	43.2	961	45.5
Family	41	16.7	28	9.8	240	11.4
Acquaintance	90	36.6	96	33.4	721	34.1
Not Known to Victim	40	16.3	66	23.0	389	18.4
Undetermined	75	30.5	97	33.8	763	36.1
Total	246	100.0	287	100.0	2,113	100.0

*Excludes 58 persons (1976), 86 persons (1983) and 1,160 persons (1976-1983) for whom either race or sex was unknown.

Sources:

See p. 39 for a complete listing.

Sources 15-22

**Table 8c. Number and Percentage of Homicides by Race and Sex
of Victim, and Relationship of Victim to Assailant
United States, 1976-1983***

White females						
Relationship	1976		1983		1976-1983	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Known to Victim	1,339	57.7	1,626	58.1	12,257	55.8
Family	816	35.2	901	32.2	7,005	31.9
Acquaintance	523	22.5	725	25.9	5,252	23.9
Not Known to Victim	219	9.4	316	11.3	2,265	10.3
Undetermined	763	32.9	855	30.6	7,431	33.8
Total	2,321	100.0	2,797	100.0	21,953	100.0

Black females						
Weapon	1976		1983		1976-1983	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Known to Victim	1,190	72.7	1,069	66.0	8,997	65.8
Family	563	34.4	440	27.2	3,941	28.8
Acquaintance	627	32.9	629	38.8	5,056	37.0
Not Known to Victim	100	6.1	101	6.2	795	5.8
Undetermined	347	21.2	450	27.8	3,871	28.3
Total	1,637	100.0	1,620	100.0	13,663	100.0

Other females						
Weapon	1976		1983		1976-1983	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Known to Victim	57	58.2	72	60.0	464	57.6
Family	29	29.6	31	25.8	231	28.7
Acquaintance	28	28.6	41	34.2	233	28.9
Not Known to Victim	8	8.2	15	12.5	84	10.4
Undetermined	33	33.7	33	27.5	257	31.9
Total	98	100.0	120	100.0	805	100.0

*Excludes 58 persons (1976), 86 persons (1983) and 1,160 persons (1976-1983) for whom either race or sex was unknown

Sources:
See p. 39 for a complete listing.
Sources: 15-22

**Table 9. Number and Percentage of Homicides
by Race of Victim and Crime Circumstances, United States, 1976-1983***

Crime Circumstances	WHITE						BLACK						OTHER					
	1976		1983		1976-83		1976		1983		1976-83		1976		1983		1976-83	
	No.	Percent	No.	Percent	No.	Percent	No.	Percent	No.	Percent	No.	Percent	No.	Percent	No.	Percent	No.	Percent
Felony	1,806	21.0%	2,128	20.2%	16,920	20.2%	1,073	13.4%	1,129	13.9%	8,984	13.0%	58	16.9%	96	23.6%	576	19.7%
--Robbery/Burglary	1,186	13.8%	1,485	14.3%	11,689	13.9%	686	8.6%	693	8.5%	5,682	8.2%	42	12.2%	74	18.2%	430	14.7%
--Narcotics	123	1.4%	181	1.7%	1,368	1.6%	168	2.1%	192	2.4%	1,376	2.0%	2	0.6%	5	1.2%	32	1.1%
--Sex offenses	202	2.4%	201	1.9%	1,626	1.9%	92	1.2%	82	1.0%	687	1.0%	6	1.7%	5	1.2%	53	1.8%
--Other felonies	295	3.4%	261	2.5%	2,237	2.7%	127	1.6%	162	2.0%	1,239	1.8%	8	2.3%	12	2.9%	61	2.1%
Suspected Felonies	717	8.3%	356	3.4%	5,498	6.6%	383	4.8%	209	2.6%	2,709	3.9%	44	12.8%	12	2.9%	202	6.9%
Non Felony	5,172	60.2%	5,545	53.4%	47,084	56.2%	5,680	71.1%	5,017	61.7%	44,813	64.8%	213	61.9%	220	54.1%	1,724	59.1%
--Argument over money or property	191	2.2%	213	2.1%	1,745	2.1%	437	5.5%	312	3.8%	3,014	4.4%	14	4.1%	7	1.7%	76	2.6%
--Romantic triangle	219	2.5%	266	2.6%	1,989	2.4%	242	3.0%	210	2.6%	1,885	2.7%	11	3.2%	6	1.5%	74	2.5%
--Argument due to influence of drugs or alcohol	518	6.0%	477	4.6%	4,312	5.1%	413	5.2%	268	3.3%	2,747	4.0%	33	9.6%	20	4.9%	194	6.6%
--Other arguments	2,459	28.6%	3,066	29.5%	23,501	28.0%	3,361	42.0%	3,164	38.9%	27,399	39.6%	96	27.9%	132	32.4%	874	30.0%
--Other nonfelony circumstances	1,785	20.8%	1,523	14.7%	15,537	18.5%	1,227	15.4%	1,063	13.1%	9,768	14.1%	59	17.2%	55	13.5%	506	17.3%
Citizen Justifiable	116	1.4%	129	1.2%	1,092	1.3%	261	3.3%	201	2.5%	1,861	2.7%	4	1.2%	4	1.0%	27	0.9%
Undetermined	778	9.1%	2,225	21.4%	13,233	15.8%	596	7.5%	1,575	19.4%	10,747	15.5%	25	7.3%	75	18.4%	389	13.3%
Total	8,589	100.0%	10,383	100.0%	83,827	100.0%	7,993	100.0%	8,131	100.0%	69,114	100.0%	344	100.0%	407	100.0%	2,918	100.0%

*Persons (1983) and 1,144 persons (1976-83) for whom race was unknown

**Table 10. Mean Number of Homicides and 6-Year Rates* for 1977-1982
by Race/Ethnicity for Five Southwestern States****

	United States			Five Southwestern States		
	Mean No.	6-Year Rate		Mean No.	6-Year Rate	Age-Adjusted Rate
Total:***	21,982	10.0	Total:****	5,642	13.8	—
White:	12,113	6.4	Anglo:	2,327	7.9	8.1
			Hispanic:	1,645	21.6	22.2
Black:	9,455	36.9	Black:	1,670	46.0	47.4

*Per 100,000 population per year

** Arizona, California, Colorado, New Mexico, Texas

*** All races

**** Anglo, Hispanic, and Black combined.

Sources:

See p. 39 for a complete listing

Sources 9-14, 23, 24, 27

**Table II. 6-Year Homicide Rates* and Sex Ratios for 1977-1982
by Race/Ethnicity, Age Group and Sex for Five Southwestern States****

Age Group	Anglo				Hispanic				Black			
	Male	Female	Total	Sex Ratio	Male	Female	Total	Sex Ratio	Male	Female	Total	Sex Ratio
<15	2.1	2.0	2.0	1.1	2.4	1.7	2.0	1.4	6.6	5.6	6.1	1.2
15-19	10.9	5.1	8.1	2.1	53.3	5.0	29.2	10.7	62.1	16.6	39.6	3.7
20-24	18.7	7.2	12.9	2.6	87.2	9.2	47.4	9.5	161.9	30.0	88.0	5.4
25-29	18.3	5.8	12.1	3.2	77.5	8.8	42.5	8.8	173.5	29.2	96.2	5.9
30-39	16.7	4.8	10.8	3.5	66.8	6.7	35.8	10.0	148.2	24.9	82.1	6.0
40-49	14.6	4.8	9.7	3.0	46.8	6.3	26.0	7.4	104.5	18.2	60.3	5.7
50-59	11.6	3.6	7.5	3.2	32.2	2.3	16.3	14.0	74.5	11.5	41.6	6.5
60-69	9.1	2.9	5.7	3.1	20.0	3.9	11.2	5.1	50.8	11.2	28.7	4.5
70+	8.8	4.7	6.3	1.9	15.7	3.7	9.1	4.2	36.0	11.0	21.0	3.3
Total	11.6	4.3	7.9	2.7	38.7	4.8	21.5	8.1	78.1	16.4	46.0	4.8
Age-Adjusted Total	11.2	4.2	8.1		40.5	4.9	22.2		83.2	16.4	47.4	

*Per 100,000 population per year

**Arizona, California, Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas

Table 12. 3-Year Homicide Rates* for 1977-1979 and 1980-1982 by Race/Ethnicity, Age and Sex for Five Southwestern States**

ANGLO							
Age Group	Male			Female			1977-1979
	1977-1979	1980-1982	% Change	1977-1979	1980-1982	% Change	
< 15	2.2	2.0	9.1%	2.0	2.0	0.0%	2.1
15-19	12.1	9.8	19.0%	5.0	5.4	8.0%	8.6
20-24	18.4	19.0	3.3%	7.2	7.0	2.8%	12.7
25-29	17.7	18.8	6.2%	6.0	5.7	5.0%	12.0
30-39	15.9	17.3	8.8%	4.5	5.0	11.1%	10.3
40-49	14.6	14.7	0.7%	4.5	4.9	8.9%	9.6
50-59	11.7	11.6	0.9%	3.3	3.9	18.2%	7.4
60-69	9.8	8.4	14.3%	3.1	2.8	9.7%	6.2
70+	9.3	8.4	9.7%	4.8	4.6	4.2%	6.5
Total	11.6	11.7	0.9%	4.2	4.3	2.4%	7.8

HISPANIC							
Age Group	Male			Female			1977-1979
	1977-1979	1980-1982	% Change	1977-1979	1980-1982	% Change	
< 15	2.2	2.5	13.6%	1.8	1.7	5.6%	2.0
15-19	50.5	55.9	10.7%	5.5	4.5	18.2%	27.4
20-24	79.9	92.6	15.9%	8.3	9.8	18.1%	42.8
25-29	74.0	79.9	8.0%	7.7	9.3	20.8%	40.1
30-39	64.7	68.4	5.7%	6.0	7.3	21.7%	34.4
40-49	44.3	49.0	10.6%	6.5	5.9	9.2%	25.1
50-59	32.4	32.1	0.9%	3.9	3.5	10.3%	17.3
60-69	20.0	20.1	0.5%	3.6	4.0	11.1%	11.3
70+	15.8	15.6	1.3%	3.0	4.4	46.7%	8.7
Total	36.1	40.8	13.0%	4.6	5.0	8.7%	20.1

BLACK							
Age Group	Male			Female			1977-1979
	1977-1979	1980-1982	% Change	1977-1979	1980-1982	% Change	
< 15	6.4	7.1	10.9%	5.5	5.7	3.6%	5.9
15-19	54.3	69.6	28.2%	17.9	15.8	11.7%	36.5
20-24	137.2	191.9	39.9%	31.4	28.6	8.9%	81.6
25-29	166.6	179.0	7.4%	30.7	28.5	7.2%	95.6
30-39	150.7	146.3	2.9%	27.0	23.5	13.0%	84.2
40-49	113.9	96.7	15.1%	19.7	16.8	14.7%	63.0
50-59	73.8	75.2	1.9%	13.7	10.2	25.5%	42.7
60-69	48.3	52.5	8.7%	10.8	10.9	0.9%	27.9
70+	35.0	37.1	6.0%	12.8	10.6	17.2%	22.7
Total	74.1	81.7	10.3%	17.2	15.9	7.6%	44.8

*Per 100,000 population per year

**Arizona, California, Colorado, New Mexico, Texas

Sources:

See p. 39 for a complete listing.

Sources 23, 24, 27

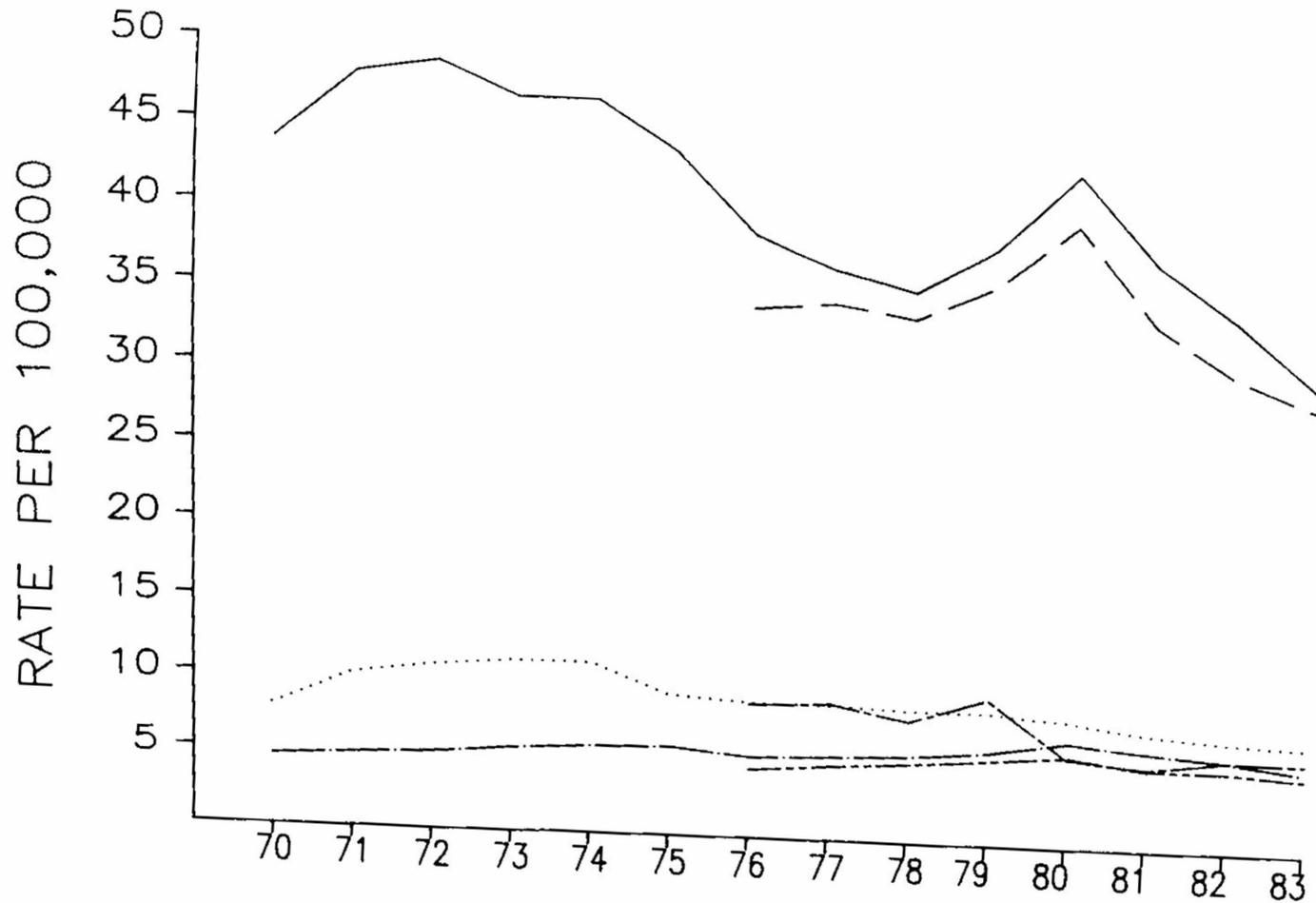
**Table 13. Percentage Distribution of Homicides by Race/Ethnicity
Sex, and Method, 5 Southwestern States*, 1977-82**

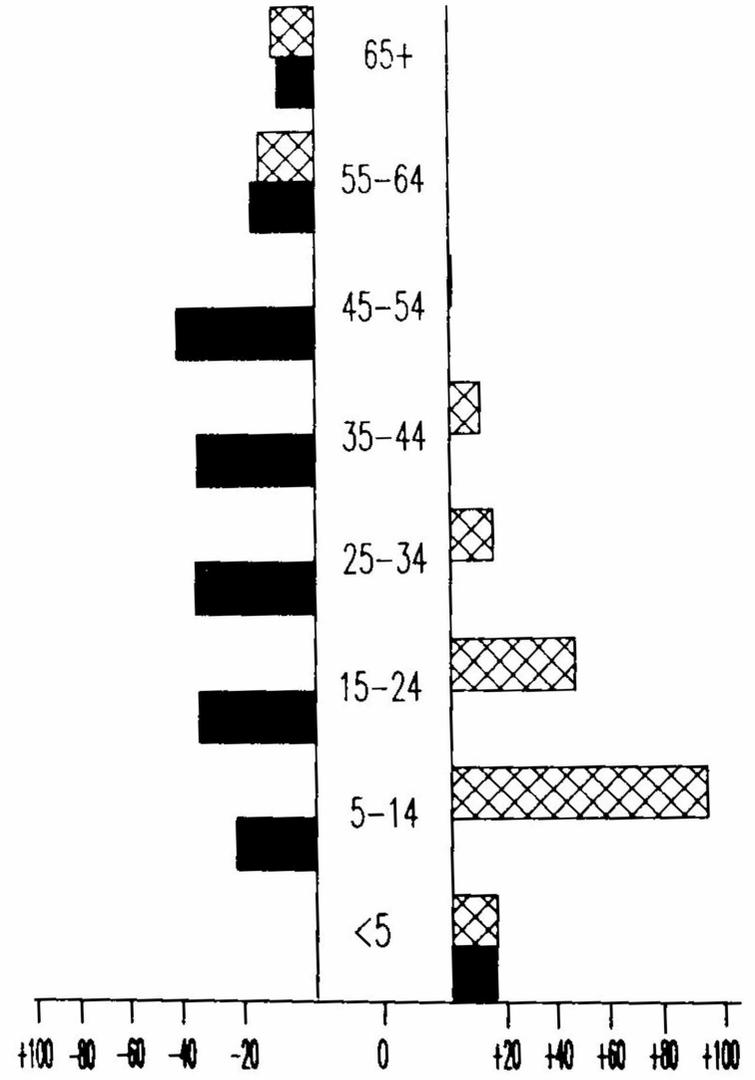
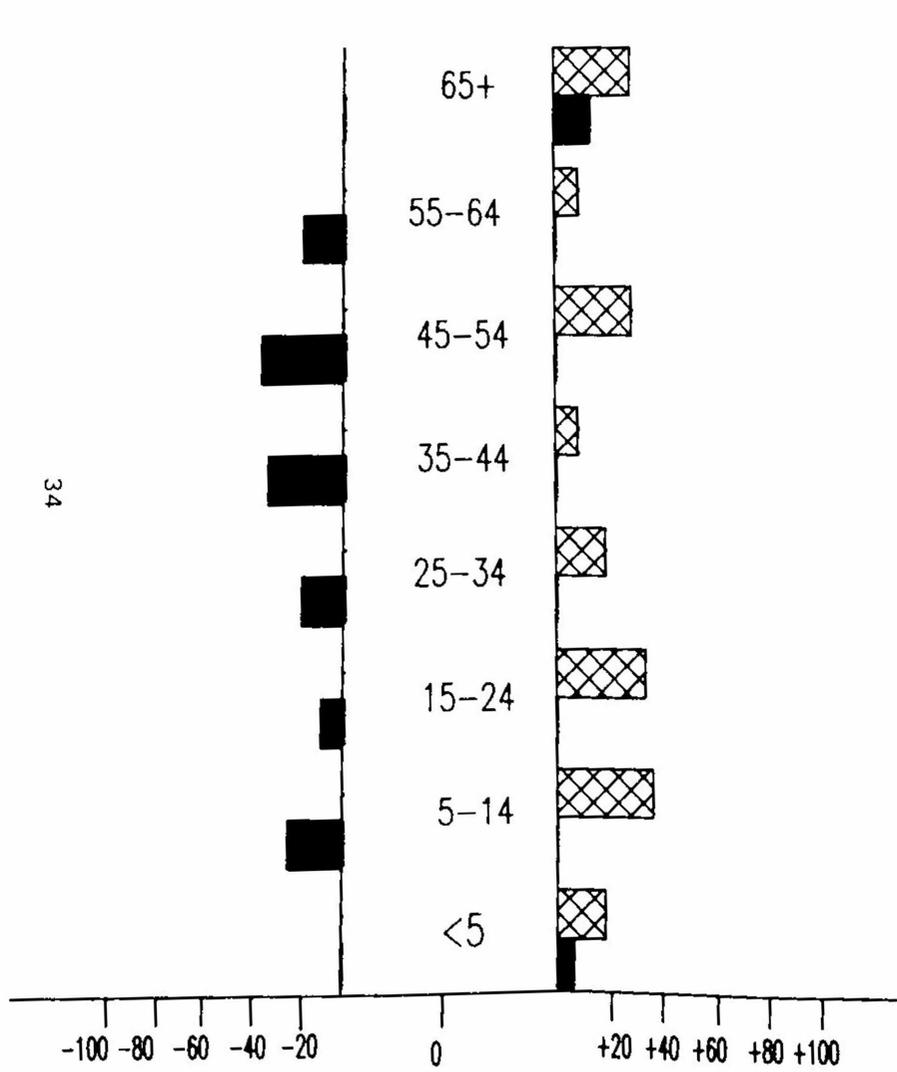
Age Group	Anglo			Hispanic			Black		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Firearms and explosives (E965)	63.4%	46.8%	58.7%	66.4%	54.0%	65.1%	74.2%	53.4%	70.3%
Cutting and piercing instruments (E966)	18.1%	16.0%	17.5%	24.5%	18.7%	23.8%	18.5%	19.1%	18.5%
Hanging and strangulation (E963)	3.1%	16.2%	6.8%	0.9%	9.5%	1.9%	1.2%	11.2%	3.1%
All other methods (E960-962, E964, E967, E969)	1.9%	3.3%	2.3%	1.1%	3.1%	1.3%	0.9%	3.4%	1.4%
Other and unspecified means (E968)	13.5%	17.7%	14.7%	7.1%	14.7%	7.9%	5.2%	12.9%	6.7%
Total	100.0%								

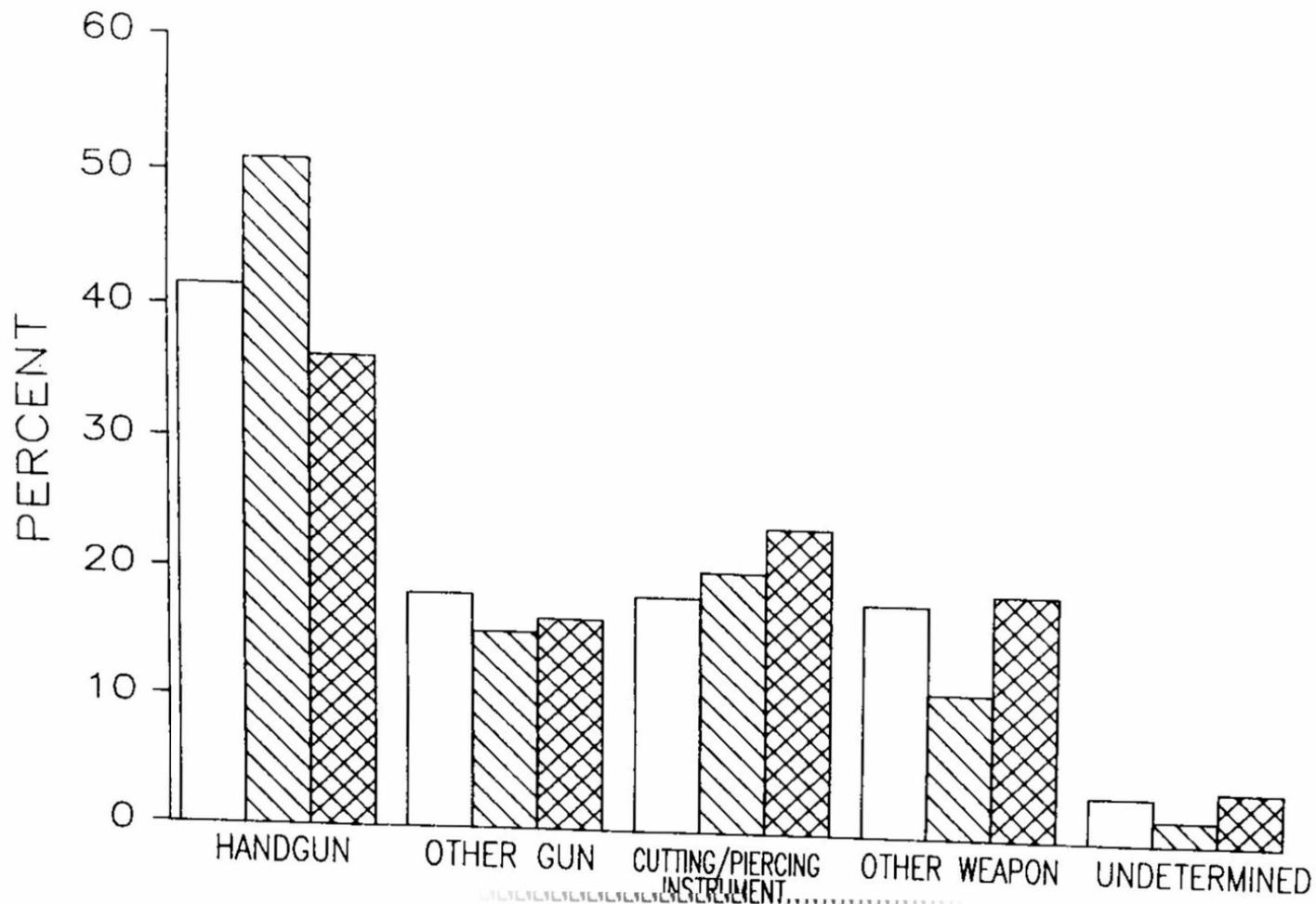
* Arizona, California, Colorado, New Mexico, Texas

Sources:
See p. 39 for a complete listing.
Source 27

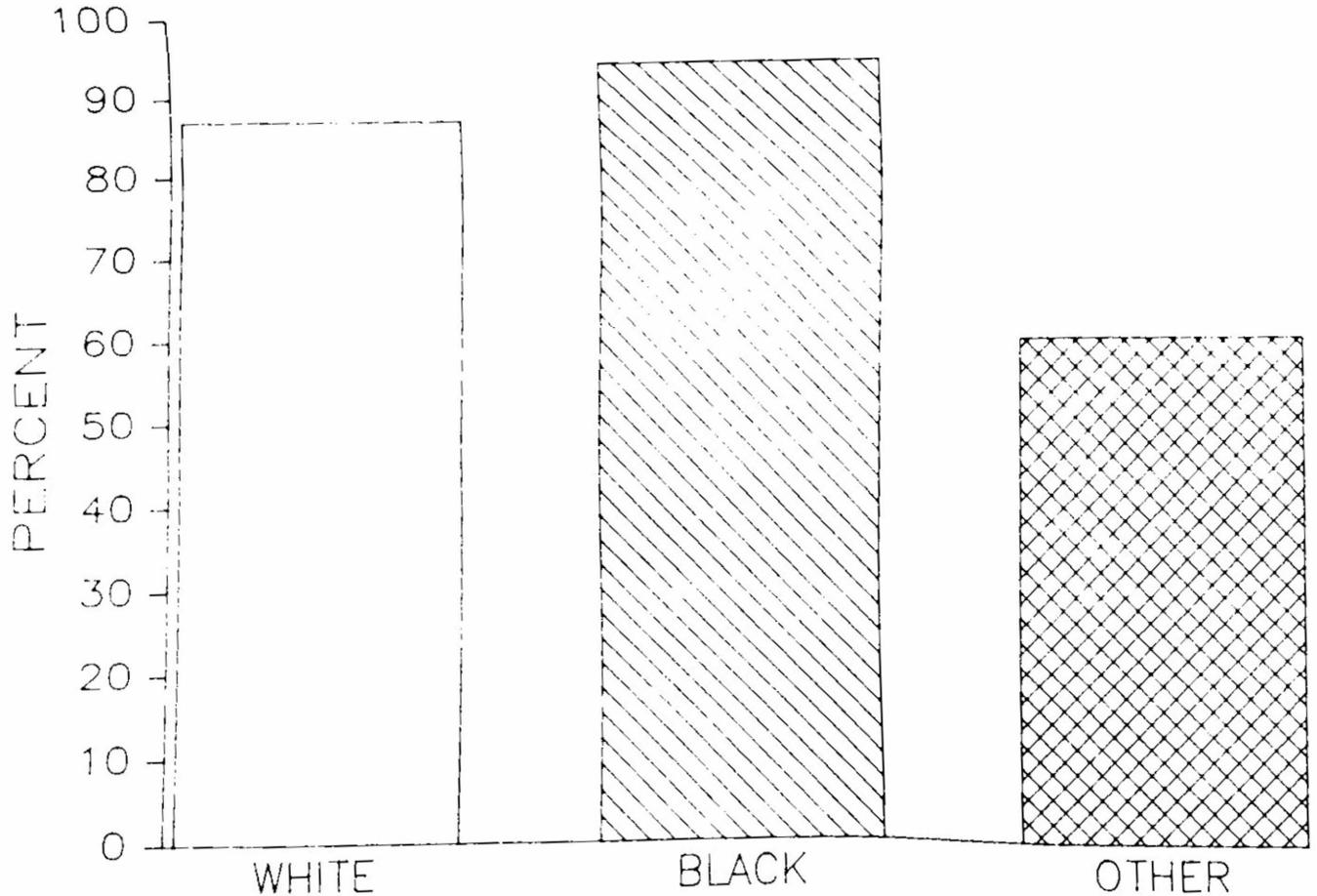
PRICE AND
UNITED STATES, 1970-1983

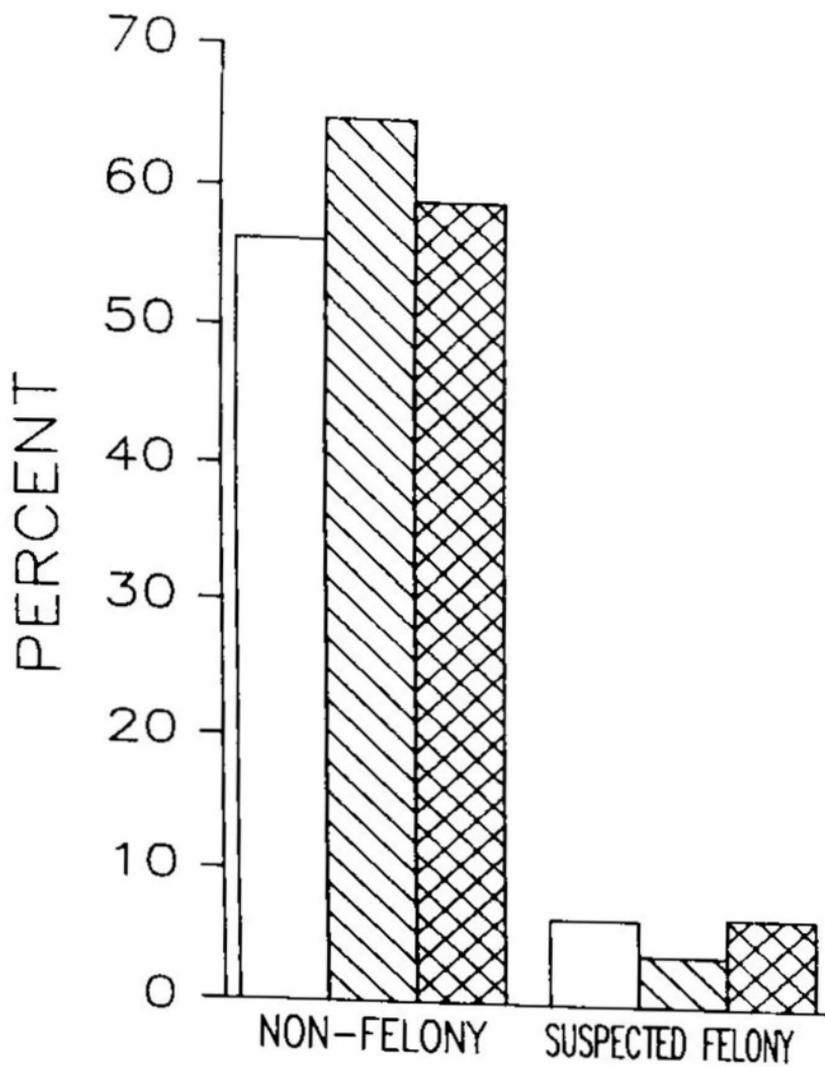


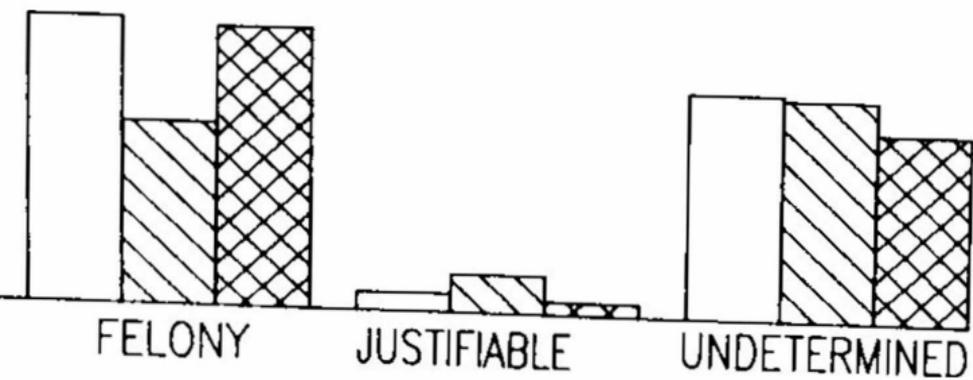


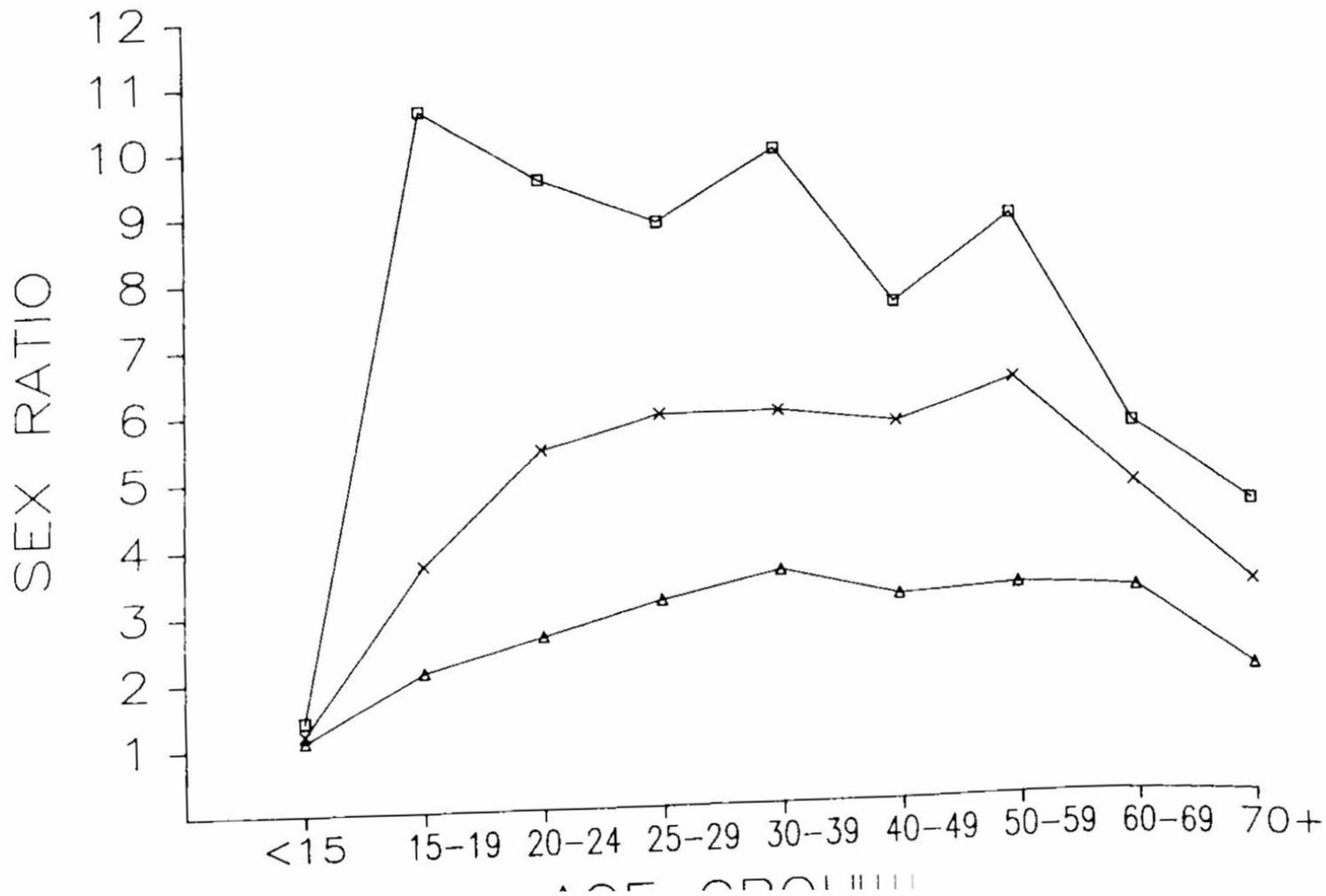


BENEFITS OF THE GAME
UNITED STATES, 1976-1983









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